



The Honorable James Risch  
Chairman  
Committee on Small Business &  
Entrepreneurship  
428A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
Ranking Member  
Commerce Subcommittee on Communications,  
Technology, Innovation and the Internet  
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Schatz:

On behalf of the National Small Business Association (NSBA), the nation's first small-business advocacy organization, with more than 65,000 small-business members representing every state and every industry across the country, I commend your leadership for introducing the Making Available Information Now to Strengthen Trust and Resilience and Enhance Enterprise Technology (MAIN STREET) Cybersecurity Act.

Given the increasingly commonplace occurrence of hacking and cyber-crimes, coupled with the fact that, over the past few years in a difficult economy, small-business owners are handling more of their firm's IT operations, cybersecurity is a growing concern for small businesses. Even a simple cyber-attack can effectively destroy a small company, and startlingly, these attacks are becoming more common among small businesses. In a recent NSBA survey, ninety four percent of small-business owners indicated that they are concerned about being targeted by cyber-attacks, and 42 percent of members indicated that they had been the victim of a cyber-attack. In almost a third of those attacks on NSBA members, credit card information was stolen. In 13 percent of the attacks the entire network was compromised and in 10 percent a bank account was hacked.

Keeping in mind the infrastructural limitations of small businesses, NSBA has long called for Congress to find ways to keep them abreast of these threats by providing clear, simple steps companies can follow when their data is breached while balancing the need for greater information sharing with privacy rights. NSBA is pleased that the MAIN STREET Cybersecurity Act accomplishes this by having the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in coordination with Department of Homeland Security, Federal Trade Commission and the Small Business Administration create simplified voluntary guidance based on the NIST cybersecurity framework that can be used by small and medium sized businesses.

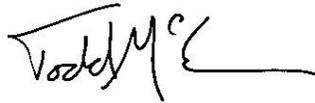
Considering nearly half of small businesses have been the victim of a cyber-attack, with an average cost of \$7,115.26, NSBA believes a strong element of your measure is tasking the NIST Director with reviewing the adequacy of the components of the NIST framework and its supporting materials to ensure they are usable by small businesses. By ensuring NIST considers the needs of small businesses as it updates the framework and provide simplified, consistent resources based on the NIST framework

specifically for small businesses, NSBA members will better be able to safeguard their businesses against cyber criminals and have the necessary tools to develop a comprehensive plan for tackling cyber threats.

In the last few years, cybersecurity has emerged as one of the most pressing concerns facing both the private and public sectors. Cyber criminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their attacks on networks and their attempts to steal personal information that can ultimately lead to severe financial distress, particularly for America's smallest employers.

NSBA supports the MAIN STREET Cybersecurity Act since it seeks to ensure the protection and security of online data and financials of small businesses across the nation through a combined effort of NIST and existing federal agencies dealing with the small business cyber-attacks. NSBA commends you for introducing this legislation and looks forward to working with you to bring this legislation to the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd McCracken". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd McCracken  
President & CEO

Cc: Senator John Thune, Senator Maria Cantwell and Senator Bill Nelson